

Message Text

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ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 OC-05 CCO-00 DHA-02 SY-05 USSS-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCS-03 SCA-01 OPR-02 /077 W

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O P 151046Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3434

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON PRIORITY

COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC PRIORITY

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN PRIORITY

COMIDEASTFOR PRIORITY

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA PRIORITY

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI PRIORITY

JCS/NMCC WASHDC PRIORITY

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

CNO WASHDC PRIORITY

CINCLANT NORVA PRIORITY

CINCLANTFLT NORVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0593

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, ASEC, ET

SUBJECT: "CISCO TWO" - ASMARA SECURITY

REF: A. STATE 164900 B. ASMARA 0588 C. ASMARA 0584

1. IN CONSIDERING THE SECURITY OF AMCITS IN ASMARA FOLLOWING SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND.

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2. THE RESIDUAL KAGNEW OPERATION INCLUDES ONLY THREE SITES, TRACTS

B, D, AND E. TRACT B, THE OPERATIONS SITE, IS AND HAS BEEN PROTECTED BY COMMANDO POLICE SINCE THE EMERGENCY BEGAN. TRACT E, THE FACILITIES AND LIVING SITE, IS SHARED WITH THE 2ND DIV. WHICH HAS ALSO PROVIDED AMPLE PROTECTION TO THE REMAINING US OCCUPIED PORTION SINCE THE EMERGENCY BEGAN. TRACT B IS ONLY ABOUT THREE KLMS TO THE WEST OF ASMARA AND TRACT E IS IN TOWN. I HAVE NO REAL CONCERN FOR THE SECURITY OF THESE TWO TRACTS ALTHOUGH, OF COURSE, A DETERMINED LARGE SCALE ATTACK COULD WREAK HAVOC AND ROCKETS COULD CAUSE DAMAGE AS HAS BEEN THE CASE IN THE PAST. AS NOTED PARA 8 REF B, I DO NOT BELIEVE ANY ADDITIONAL SECURITY PRECAUTIONS NECESSARY AT THOSE TWO TRACTS.

3. TRACT D, TWELVE KLMS SOUTHWEST OF ASMARA HAS ALWAYS BEEN A SECURITY GAMBLE. THE SURROUNDING VILLAGERS WHO ARE ULTIMATE OWNERS OF LAND ON WHICH TRACT D LOCATED, HAVE CLOSE ELF CONNECTIONS AND IT HAS BEEN FEARED THAT STATIONING OF ETHIOPIAN SECURITY FORCES NEAR SITE COULD EASILY PROVOKE INSURGENT ATTACKS AND AS WELL IMPERIL VILLAGERS ON WHOSE GOOD-WILL SUCCESSFUL MAINTENANCE TRACT D OPERATIONS DEPENDS. IN ANY EVENT, TRACT D HAS BEEN WITHOUT SECURITY FORCES OR INCIDENTS THROUGHOUT ITS EXISTENCE TO DATE. AS INDICATED REF C, STEPS BEING TAKEN NOW TO INCREASE SECURITY AT TRACT D.

4. CONGEN COMPOUND PROTECTED BY MSG, LOCAL HIRE ARMED GUARDS AND TWO ETHIOPIAN POLICEMEN STATIONED WITHIN COMPOUND AT NIGHT. SECURITY VALUE OF ETHIOPIAN NAVY LOCATED AT ADJACENT TRACT A DUBIOUS, BUT 2ND DIV REACTION FORCE APPEARS WILLING AND ABLE TO APPEAR WHEN CALLED. DETERMINED INSURGENT EFFORT TO INVADE CONGEN COMPOUND WOULD PROBABLY SUCCEED, BUT ANY MEANINGFUL ATTEMPT TO INCREASE PRESENT SECURITY FORCE WOULD TURN COMPOUND INTO AN ETHIOPIAN FORCES ARMED CAMP AND THUS ESCALATE THE RISK. AT THE PRESENT TIME I WOULD PREFER NOT TO ASK FOR ANY ADDITIONAL PROTECTION FOR CONGEN COMPOUND.

SHERRY

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